

**DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
February 19, 2014**

PRESENT

James Eardley, County Commission
Alan Gardner, County Commission
Chris Hart, Ivins Mayor
Darrin LeFevre, Toquerville Mayor
John Bramall, Hurricane Mayor
Kyle Gubler, LaVerkin City
Ken Sizemore, Santa Clara City
Arthur LeBaron, Hurricane
Jimmie Hughes, St. George City
Larry Bulloch, St. George City
Mike Shaw, Washington City
Dave Demas, Dixie MPO
William Swadley, Senator Orrin Hatch
Gary Webster, Cong. Chris Stewart
Bryan Thiriot, Five County AOG
Rick Torgerson, UDOT
Dana Meier, UDOT
David Cox, UDOT
Cameron Cutler, St. George City
Ron Whitehead, Washington County
Myron Lee, Dixie MPO
Curt Hutchings, Dixie MPO
Stanley Consultants (two representatives)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eardley welcomed all members, and introductions were made for the benefit of the new attendees.

MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes from December 18, 2013

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Hart to Approve the Minutes from the December 18, 2013, DTEC meeting. Motion seconded by Mayor Bramall and carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

A. TIP Amendment – Mall Drive Bridge

Myron Lee said that as part of the Mall Drive Bridge project, the City of St. George had to conduct an environmental study, with Federal Highways as the lead agency. In order to complete the environmental study, the Mall Drive Bridge must be included on the STIP, after which it will be recommended to the Utah Transportation Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Bramall to Place the Mall Drive Bridge Project on the 2014 TIP. Motion seconded by Councilman Hughes and carried by unanimous vote.

B. Programming of TAP Funds

Mr. Lee said that the Dixie MPO is charged with programming some Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) monies each year, starting in FY 2014, which began October 1st. An application process was conducted, with input and guidance requested from UDOT and members of DTAC on how to program the money. Two applications were received for this money, with one being the proposed sidewalk project in Washington City (map attached) from about 1100 East, along Telegraph Rd., and back to the church on Telegraph. DTAC has recommended this project for approval for funding at the \$73,000 level, which constitutes all of the TAP monies available for FY 2014.

MOTION: Motion by Mayor Bramall to Accept the Recommendations of the DTAC and Approve the Washington City Sidewalk Project as the highest priority for TAP funds for 2014. Motion seconded by Councilman Hughes and carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Lee said that the second project was a widening at St. George Blvd. between 9th and 10th East, but the DTAC committee deemed it better to apply for funding from a different source.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. COG Meeting Report

Chairman Eardley said that last night the annual Council of Governments (COG) meeting was held in order to establish the Priority List of potential projects for FY 2014. Two items were added: the Merrill Road and Apple Valley Gateway projects. Approximately \$102,000 is being generated per month through vehicle license registration; of that money, 60% is directed towards corridor preservation, 20% to loans, and 20% to grants.

B. Local Option Tax Report

An effort has been underway in the last few months for Commissioner Eardley, Myron Lee, and Ron Whitehead to visit all the city council meetings and/or work meetings concerning this local option tax, a 3% increase which would equal about ten cents per gallon. The proposal has received virtually unanimous support, with the exception of Hurricane City Council, which wanted to withhold its support pending the opinions of a few more cities. Another approach being considered is an increase in fuel tax. It appears that nothing will happen during this legislative session, but it has been interesting to speak with the city councils. There is a natural reluctance to impose additional taxes, but it is tempered with the realization that there is really nothing else to be done in order to keep up with the maintenance of our road systems.

Mr. Lee added that bills are being introduced into the state legislature but agreed that those bills would not likely make it to the floor for a vote this session. The visits to local city councils are an effort to gauge the level of support. Kyle Gubler asked the opinion of other counties in support of this tax, and Commissioner Eardley said in UAC meetings the consensus was unanimous in support. However, the support dwindles if UDOT is a recipient of the additional revenue. The County wants its own funding source (3%). The legislation that would be supported by local governments would be the local option tax. If the local governments are willing to take the public heat for an additional tax, then the money should stay local.

Myron said that there is a great deal of frustration currently with the way the B&C Road Funds flows to the cities. The formula changes for no apparent reason, and it is difficult to know what to expect from month to month. Chairman Eardley agreed, saying that occasionally, tens of thousands of dollars disappear suddenly, without apparent cause. Calls are made to the State, and no meaningful answers are forthcoming. Dana Meier suggested that he and Rick Torgerson ask UDOT to make a presentation to this committee in an attempt to explain the process.

Mayor Bramall said that his company has switched to hybrid vehicles in an attempt to save money, and Chairman Eardley said that the miles of road are still being used, with as much or more traffic than ever, and yet revenue from fuel taxes continues to decline as people economize. The cost of asphalt alone has gone up by 600% since 1997, and buying power from our road tax is down 40%. The question is still, How do we fund the road system?

C. Transportation EXPO Report

Curt Hutchings said the Transportation Expo was very successful, with more than 570 people in attendance. He presented the results of surveys that were conducted during the Expo along with a list of Preliminary Talking Points containing comments and

statistics gathered. The project of interest to most people was the Bluff and Sunset Jug Handle; other projects of concern were the Southern Parkway, City Park and Trail Planning, the Washington Parkway, the Red Hills Parkway/Bluff Interchange, and the Western Corridor. Top priorities were safety, congestion relief, and air quality.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS

Mr. Torgerson reported that the Transportation Commission will be in St. George on March 20 to take a tour and then have a meeting in Santa Clara on Friday the 21st. He invited anyone to attend. The Regional Workshop with the Commissioners was last Thursday in preparation for the April Workshop.

Project Updates:

- The Red Hills Parkway interchange is under contract now, and work should begin in about a month, depending on obtaining all necessary paperwork. That project uses Wadsworth Brothers, the same contractor that worked on Mall Bridge Drive;
- Fine-tuning is going on at the Jug Handle at Bluff and Sunset;
- UDOT is trying to get 3B of the Southern Parkway fully funded;
- More 80-mph speed zones are coming in Utah, mostly along I-70 and I-80. 80-mph zones along the I-15 corridor are basically done, and fatalities in those 80-mph zones are not speed related but rather due to the failure to wear seat belts;
- FHA has given the right to dictate speed limits to the states.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

NEXT MEETING

Next Scheduled DTEC meeting: March 19, 2014

ADJOURN

Having no other business, Chairman Eardley adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.